

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1 1. (Previously Presented) A vehicle disabling system
2 comprising:
3 a vehicle control unit for positioning in a vehicle, the vehicle
4 control unit including a transceiver for transmitting and receiving
5 signals via free space, the transceiver including means for receiving
6 an inquiry signal and transmitting an identification code upon the
7 receipt of the inquiry signal;
8 a central database station including memory for storing a
9 plurality of identification codes of vehicle control units, an
10 authorization code being associated in the memory with each of the
11 identification codes of the vehicle control units; and
12 a mobile law enforcement unit for positioning in a law
13 enforcement vehicle, the law enforcement unit including a
14 transceiver for transmitting and receiving signals via free space, the
15 law enforcement unit including means for transmitting the inquiry
16 signal to the vehicle control unit, the law enforcement unit
17 including means for receiving an identification code from the
18 vehicle control unit and transmitting the identification code to
19 central database station, the law enforcement unit including means
20 for transmitting the stop signal with the authorization code via free
21 space to the vehicle control unit upon the receipt of the
22 authorization code from the central database station;
23 wherein the vehicle control unit includes means for connecting
24 to an ignition system of the vehicle, the vehicle control unit
25 including means for lowering an engine speed of the vehicle to an

26 idle condition upon the receipt by the transceiver of a stop signal
27 accompanied by an authorization code via free space within a
28 predetermined amount of time after receipt of the inquiry signal.

1 2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the
2 vehicle control unit includes means for connecting to at least one
3 exterior light circuit of the vehicle such that exterior lights of the
4 vehicle are flashable by the vehicle control unit upon receipt of the
5 inquiry signal by the transceiver to provide external visual
6 confirmation of receipt of the inquiry signal by the vehicle control
7 unit.

 1 3. (Cancelled)

1 4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the
2 vehicle control unit includes means for connecting to a horn of the
3 vehicle such that the vehicle control unit actuates the horn of the
4 vehicle upon the receipt by the transceiver of a stop signal
5 accompanied by an authorization code via free space within a
6 predetermined amount of time after receipt of the inquiry signal.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein the
2 predetermined amount of time is approximately 30 seconds.

1 6. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the
2 predetermined amount of time is approximately 30 seconds.

1 7. (Previously Presented) A vehicle disabling system
2 comprising:

3 a vehicle control unit for positioning in a vehicle, the vehicle
4 control unit including a transceiver for transmitting and receiving
5 signals via free space, the transceiver including means for receiving
6 an inquiry signal and transmitting an identification code upon the
7 receipt of the inquiry signal, the vehicle control unit being
8 connectable to at least one exterior light circuit of the vehicle such
9 that exterior lights of the vehicle are flashable by the vehicle
10 control unit upon receipt of the inquiry signal by the transceiver to
11 provide external visual confirmation of receipt of the inquiry signal
12 by the vehicle control unit, the vehicle control unit being
13 connectable to an ignition system of the vehicle, the vehicle control
14 unit including means for lowering an engine speed of the vehicle to
15 an idle condition upon the receipt by the transceiver of a stop signal
16 accompanied by an authorization code via free space within a
17 predetermined amount of time after receipt of the inquiry signal, the
18 vehicle control unit includes means for connecting to a horn of the
19 vehicle such that the vehicle control unit actuates the horn of the
20 vehicle upon the receipt by the transceiver of a stop signal
21 accompanied by an authorization code via free space within a
22 predetermined amount of time after receipt of the inquiry signal,
23 wherein the predetermined amount of time is approximately 30
24 seconds;

25 a central database station including memory for storing a
26 plurality of identification codes of vehicle control units, an
27 authorization code being associated in the memory with each of the
28 identification codes of the vehicle control units; and

29 a mobile law enforcement unit for positioning in a law
30 enforcement vehicle, the law enforcement unit including a

31 transceiver for transmitting and receiving signals via free space, the
32 law enforcement unit includes means for transmitting the inquiry
33 signal to the vehicle control unit, the law enforcement unit includes
34 means for receiving an identification code from the vehicle control
35 unit and transmitting the identification code to central database
36 station, the law enforcement unit includes means for transmitting
37 the stop signal with the authorization code via free space to the
38 vehicle control unit upon the receipt of the authorization code from
39 the central database station.

1 8. (Previously Presented) A method of disabling a vehicle
2 comprising the steps of:

3 providing a vehicle control unit for positioning in the vehicle,
4 the vehicle control unit including a transceiver for transmitting and
5 receiving signals via free space;

6 providing a central database station including memory for
7 storing a plurality of identification codes of vehicle control units,
8 the memory of the central database storing an authorization code
9 associated with each of the identification codes of the vehicle
10 control units;

11 providing a mobile law enforcement unit for positioning in a
12 law enforcement vehicle, the law enforcement unit including a
13 transceiver for transmitting and receiving signals via free space;

14 transmitting an inquiry signal from the law enforcement unit
15 to the vehicle control unit;

16 transmitting an identification code from the vehicle control
17 unit to the law enforcement unit;

18 transmitting the identification code from the law enforcement
19 unit to the central database station;

20 matching an authorization code from the memory of the central
21 database station to the identification code; and

22 transmitting a stop signal from the law enforcement unit to the
23 vehicle control unit; and

24 lowering an engine speed of an engine of the vehicle by the
25 vehicle control unit upon the receipt by the vehicle control unit of
26 the stop signal so that the engine of the vehicle is put into an idle
27 condition.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 8 additionally comprising
2 transmitting the authorization code to the law enforcement unit.

1 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 additionally
2 comprising transmitting the authorization code from the law
3 enforcement unit to the vehicle control unit.

11. (Cancelled)

32
1 12. (Original) The method of claim 10 additionally
2 comprising actuating a horn of the vehicle upon the receipt by the
3 vehicle control unit of the stop signal accompanied by the
4 authorization code.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 8 additionally comprising
2 flashing exterior lights of the vehicle by the vehicle control unit
3 upon receipt of the inquiry signal by the vehicle control unit to
4 provide external visual confirmation of receipt of the inquiry signal
5 by the vehicle control unit.

1
2 14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the
3 vehicle control unit includes means for transmitting a signal to a
4 powertrain control module of the vehicle, and the powertrain control
5 module includes means for causing an engine of the vehicle to
6 return to idle and causing a check engine light of the vehicle to

Appln. No. 09/66155

Amendment dated November 20, 2003

Reply to Office Action mailed June 20, 2003

- 62
- 7 illuminate when the powertrain control module does not receive the
 - 8 signal from the vehicle control unit.
-